of drugs to the poor especially BPL families, Schemes of interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M (of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) for Good Manufacturing Practices, Scheme for Settment of old dues under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979, Re-structuring of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), pricing to be applied to the specific drugs as listed under National List of Essential Medicine, 2003. Prices of existing formulations of 74 drugs under price control under the DPCO, 1995 would be frozen for a period of one year.

After receipt of comments of various departments, the draft policy would be placed before the Cabinet for approval. No specific time frame can be mentioned about the finalisation of the policy.

Consumption of fertilizers

437. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of fertilizers during the last three years;

(b) the estimated requirement of fertilizers for the year 2006-07; and

(c) the steps taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Product-wise consumption of fertilizers during last three years are given below:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Product Name	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Estimated)
Urea	197.67	206.65	222.04
Ammonium Sulphate (A/S)	5.39	5.29	6.01
Ammonium Chloride (A/C)	0.75	0.82	0.63
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN)	1.43	1.84	2.10
Dai-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP)	56.24	62.56	68.31
Single Super Phosphate (SSP)	25.44	25.49	28.16

1	2	3	4
Rock Phosphate	0.74	0.62	0.62
Complexes	47.57	55.08	6.81
Moriate of Potash (MoP)	18.41	24.06	25.88
Sulphate of Potash (SoP)	0.22	0.26	0.29
Others	0.03	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	353.89	382.67	421.85

(b) Estimated demand/requirement of major fertilizers for 2006-07 are given below:-

(in lakh tonnes)

Period	Urea	DAP	MoP
Kharif 2006 (Assessed Requirement)	122.38	33.10	14.66
Rabi 2006-07 (Estimated Requirement)	125.00	48.00	16.00
Total (Kharif+Rabi)	247.38	81.10	30.66

(c) The Department has asked the Urea manufacturing units to produce beyond their installed capacities by increasing their stream days, postponing turn around etc. About 3.5 lakh MT of additional urea is estimated to be produced in the season. In addition, imports from OMIFCO, a joint venture company set up in Sur, Oman, by Oman Oil Company & IFFCO/KRIBHCO with an annual capacity of 16.52 lakh MT/per annum have also commenced, thereby augmenting availability.

The Government has been pursuing policies, which are conducive for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector so as to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the indigenous requirement of major fertilizers. In case of urea, the Government has recently announced the policies for investment to be made in new and expansion projects of urea, de-bottlenecking/revamp/modernization of existing urea units and conversion of non-gas based units to natural gas/liquefied natural gas (LNG).